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STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
Department of Genetics

November 7, 1969

Editor

Chemical and Engineering News  
1155 Sixteenth Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Sir,

Your article (October 27) on cyclamate complains that it is "unrealistic and unscientific" to ban it on the basis of experiments with animals fed for a few years at 50 times the expected human exposure. Given (1) that bladder cancer may take ten to twenty years' chronic exposure, (2) that children may be expected to be more sensitive than adults, (3) that carcinogens interact with many environmental and individual variables which can scarcely be replicated in the laboratory, and (4) that it would be a disaster if as many as one per thousand exposed people succumbed to chemically induced cancer, just what "realistic and scientific" measures would you propose to assure the safety of a food additive? And would you then disregard the clear warning signals of chromosome breakage induced by quite modest levels of cyclohexylamine?

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

cc:Mr. Howard Sanders, Senior Associate Editor  
JL/rr